CENTER FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES
THE NIKOS KAZANTZAKIS CHAIR
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

ΜΑΝΤΑΤΟΦΟΡΟΣ

ΕΔΡΑ ΝΙΚΟΥ ΚΑΖΑΝΤΖΑΚΗ
MODERN GREEK STUDIES FOUNDATION

MANTATOPHOROS: "BEARER OF NEWS, MESSENGER"

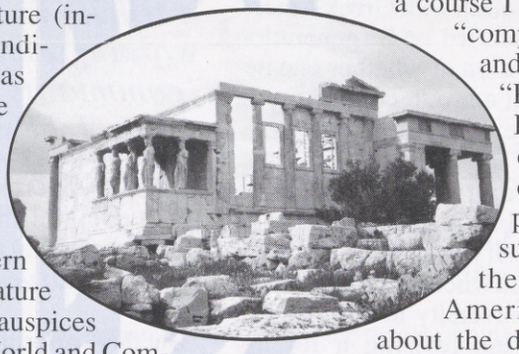
Meeting of Neohellenists Sponsored by the Greek Ministry of Culture in Athens

Dr. Roland Moore and Prof. Martha Klironomos in Athens for the meeting of Neohellenists Conference

The following is an excerpt from Prof. Martha Klironomos' presentation at the Meeting of Neohellenists Sponsored by the Greek Ministry of Culture March 17–18, 2000 in Athens. The meeting was attended by scholars in Modern Greek Studies from North and South America, Australia, and Europe to discuss activities, problems, and needs of Modern Greek Studies programs outside Greece.

As a member of the delegation representing the Modern Greek Studies Association of the U.S. and Canada and as part of this session devoted to "Ways of Promoting the Civilization of Modern Greece" my presentation today will address curicular design in Modern Greek and Greek American Studies, and strategies for Cultural Outreach to the Hellenic community, using my own program as an illustrative example.

Since 1996, as the Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, at San Francisco State University, I have been working rigorously to develop the curriculum in Modern Greek Studies using an interdisciplinary approach. We offer a variety of courses from beginner to advanced language courses as well as courses on Modern Greek Literature (including courses on individual authors such as Kazantzakis), on the Culture of Contemporary Greece, and on Modern Greek History.



Because the Modern Greek Program's literature courses are under the auspices of the department of World and Comparative Literature, certain factors have necessitated the development of courses in translation and courses in which Modern Greek literature is put in a comparative model with the literatures of other traditions. These factors include the following: the demographic realities of the Bay Area Hellenic community, the university's enrollment requirements, the limited background and knowledge of Greece and of the Greek language of the students in Comparative Literature. Despite these complexities, the approach I have implemented in teaching Modern Greek literature tries not to compromise on its unique particularities and richness. It draws on recent discussions among scholars of less commonly taught traditions—according to American standards, of course—who have argued that their areas of study should be treated as case studies of separate development rather than be viewed as cultures under the sphere of influence of the more dominant Western traditions. I deviate from approaches which tend to treat traditions such as Modern Greek as merely derivative of American and English literary movements and search for ways which highlight developments unique to Greece's intellectual history. Thus the case of Greek political and cultural nationalism is set as a primary example in a course I have taught on "comparative poetics and nationalism": "Poeticizing the Ethnos." The case of Greece enables me to problematize assumptions held in the English and American contexts about the development of "literature" or the role of the "public intellectual" or the unique evolution of the genre of autobiography and memoirs, just to note a few examples. Likewise, for a graduate course I'll be teaching in the Fall on "Memory, Nation and Diaspora," we will look at Greece as a primary example to explore this particular set of issues as recent scholarly in

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Coming Events

CMGS Visiting Speakers for 2000–2001

Dr. Marianna Spanaki, of the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham, England, will speak on Greek cinema. *(November 2000)*

Professor Stathis Kalyvas, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago, will speak on the Greek Civil War. *(February/March 2001)*

Nicholas Samaras, Greek-American poet will read selections from his work. *(April 2001)*

A Panel discussion on ***Greek-Turkish Relations*** will feature guest speaker: ***Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou,*** Senior Research Fellow, Harvard University, JFK School of Government. *(TBA)*

The Center for Modern Greek Studies will be co-sponsoring a conference with the ***Vryonis Center***, entitled, ***"Greeks in English Speaking Countries."*** The session on "The Language and Culture of the Present and Next Generations" will take place at the SFSU campus, October 13th at 3:15 p.m. in Humanities Bldg. 131.

Please check our website for updates.
www.sfsu.edu/~modgreek

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quiry is reconsidering the role of public or collective memory and is probing into how a culture remembers and/or suppresses aspects of its collective past by looking at the role of ideology in this process.

Diaspora and the Hellenic Community

Because we are in the position of teaching Modern Greek abroad, historicizing the trajectory of the Hellenic communities on a global scale and offering courses that present this body of knowledge from an interdisciplinary approach is integral to the survival of some of our Modern Greek Studies programs. While the topic of diaspora is a very hot one within academic circles, it is, at the same time, within the Hellenic community in America a particularly charged issue as Greek immigrants of the first generation often clash with Greek Americans of the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th generation over the question of whether one belongs to such a group collectivity in the first place.

To create a forum in which such a debate could be take place, I taught an interdisciplinary course on the Hellenic Diaspora when I was a Professor at McGill University in 1995 and in 1996 and I am revising it for my Modern Greek Studies Program at the Kazantzakis Chair. The first segment of the course initially provides an overview of the development of Greek diasporic communities from antiquity to modern times and concentrates on the role of the diaspora Enlightenment intellectuals in pre-revolutionary (1821) Greece; the second segment then focuses the students' attention on the trajectory of the Greek communities in Canada and the U.S. and uses literary texts written in the diaspora as a point of departure.

Other courses in the making are courses devoted to the literature of Greek America. These types of courses are not merely an advancement of Greek "paideia" in the broader sense, but also an important "offering" to the Greek American community, which has generously supported, in large measure, the funding of the academic and cultural programs at the Kazantzakis Chair for almost 20 years.

"Cultural outreach also takes the form of... projects... undertaken graciously by committees of volunteers from the Greek American community, especially the members of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation in the Bay Area and the success of these events is a tribute to the notion of a working and collaborative 'community' in the finest sense of the word."

But this "offering" also is taking other forms. Cultural outreach also takes the form of periodic public scholarly lectures, dramatic and musical performances of Greece's well-known composers, and art exhibitions by artists of Hellenic ancestry. In the latter two instances, these projects have been undertaken graciously by committees of volunteers from the Greek American community, especially the members of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation in the Bay Area, and the success of these events is a tribute to the notion of a working and collaborative "community" in the finest sense of the word.

To honor and memorialize the history of the Hellenic community in Northern California I, on behalf of a committee of volunteers from the Greek American community, submitted a proposal for the establishment of a Greek American Archive in December of 1999, which has received official approval by San Francisco State University. The Archive will contain oral histories, photographs, publications and related memorabilia of Greek immigrants to Northern California since the first wave of immigration to the West Coast. Such endeavors are not only integral to the validation of the experience of these immigrants but also to the perpetuation of the legacy of Greece, for I believe it will instill further interest in learning more about the originary Helladic culture as well, for researchers will inevitably return to Greece's past to find the reasons why these peoples migrated in the first place.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of such cultural programs which are aimed primarily at the Hellenic community for it has been widely discussed within the various fraternal organizations throughout the Bay Area that the future of the community lies in Centers such as ours. While my program is not unique in fostering such projects such as the Greek American Archive, it would serve us well if we could coordinate our efforts worldwide to share and exchange the data produced by each respective center.

Fall 2000 Classes

Registration Information

San Francisco State University

SFSU Students should register through SFSU touchtone system. **Priority registration is July 13 through Aug. 18, 2000, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Open registration begins July 13th and runs through Aug. 25, 2000.** Adding classes continues through Sept. 15th. Classes begin Wednesday Aug. 30, 2000. The last day of of exams is December 22, 2000. To confirm registration information, check the SFSU website at **www.sfsu.edu.**

**College of Extended Learning*

Any adult in the community may enroll in University courses without being formally admitted to the University. To find out details of enrollment, please contact SFSU College of Extended Learning at **(415) 405-7700**. **www.cel.sfsu.edu**

Eldercollege

This program is also for those over 60. Although it is not possible to earn a degree through Eldercollege, you may audit regular classes on a space available basis. You do not need to meet the standard requirements for admission to be a part of this program. The fee is $45 per semester. Please note that this fee does not apply for courses offered through the College of Extended Learning. For more information, call the Urban Elders Program at **(415) 338-2127**.

Over-Sixty Program

Persons 60 years of age or older can earn a Baccalaureate or Master's degree at the University without payment of admission or registration fees. You only pay a $3 fee for each term you attend. To be eligible for the program, you must:

1) be at least 60 years of age
2) have been a California resident for a full year immediately preceding your enrollment
3) meet the standard requirements for admission to the University.

For more information call the Urban Elders Program at **(415) 338-2127**. Please note that this special fee does not apply for courses offered through the College of Extended Learning

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MGS/GRE 150 **Modern Greek I**

Introduction to the Modern Greek language. Basic oral expression, listening comprehension, reading and writing will be emphasized. This is a GE course.

Instructor **Prof. Martha Klironomos**
Time: **M/W 2:10–3:25 p.m.**
Location: **HUM 381**

MGS/GRE 365 Intermediate Modern Greek III

A continuation of Modern Greek II. Accelerated emphasis on conversation, grammar, reading, and writing in contemporary Greek.

Instructor: **Prof. Martha Klironomos**
Time: **Tu 4:10–6:55 p.m.**
Location: **HUM 384**

Offered through the College of Extended Learning

MGS 152 **Modern Greek Conversation**

A course for the advanced beginner, offered through the **College of Extended Learning**,* and geared toward practical language usage.

Instructor: **Katerina Chiotis**
Time: **Tu 7:00–9:00 p.m.**
Location: **HUM 301**

Related Graduate Course

WCL 825 **"Memory, Nation and Diaspora"**
Advanced Study inComparative Literature

This seminar will explore the topics of national culture, diaspora and memory and their representation in literature. Prof. Klironomos' areas of concentration include: Modern Greek Literature, Literary Theory, Nationalism, and Aesthetics.

Instructor: **Prof. Martha Klironomos**
Time: **M 6–9 p.m.**
Location: **HUM 374**

Dated Material

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Keeping in Touch

If you are interested in receiving announcements about our lectures and other special events held at the Center for Modern Greek Studies at SFSU, give us a call at the Center **(415) 338-1892** or send a note to the mailing address. We regularly advertise our events in the Greek-American newspaper, *The Hellenic Journal*, and in the SFSU *Campus Memo*. We also maintain an e-mail list announcing these events. If you wish to be included, send us e-mail with your e-mail address to **modgreek@sfsu.edu**

Our current course offerings, lecture schedule and other information about the Center for Modern Greek Studies can be found on our web site: ***http://www.sfsu.edu/~modgreek***

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